

For Immediate Release
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Mayor Coleman and Council President Pro-Tem Craig Break Ground On New Sidewalks On Refugee Road

Mayor Michael B. Coleman and City Council President Pro-Tem Hearcel F. Craig today broke ground on the construction of new sidewalks on both sides of Refugee Road between South Hamilton Road and Big Walnut Creek. The segment of Refugee Road currently has no sidewalks. The start of sidewalk construction will come several weeks after a traffic light was installed at the intersection of Refugee Road and Tennyson Drive. Mayor Coleman ordered the pedestrian safety improvements following Vina Mae Carmichael's death in June 2010, when she was struck by a motorist while crossing Refugee Road.

"We are investing in these sidewalks and this traffic light on Refugee Road in hopes that another family will not experience the pain that the Carmichael family did with the tragic loss of their mother," said Mayor Coleman. "We also continue to invest in sidewalks across Columbus to make other streets safer for families on arterial streets with heavy traffic and near schools."

A five-foot wide sidewalk will be built on the south side of Refugee Road and an eight-foot wide multi-use path for pedestrians and bicycles will be constructed on the north side of the street. The city of Columbus' plan for Refugee Road responded to the Carmichael family's request to build sidewalks and add a traffic light to increase pedestrian safety adjacent to the apartment complexes on Refugee Road between South Hamilton Road and Big Walnut Creek.

"Sidewalks help create safe, walkable neighborhoods," said Councilmember Craig, chair of the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee. "Sidewalks add value to homes and promote healthy lifestyles. As a city, we need to continue to make these investments to improve the quality of life in Columbus."

In July, Department of Public Service crews installed a traffic light and pedestrian crossing signals at the intersection of Refugee Road and Tennyson Drive. The traffic light and crossing signals became fully-operational on July 25.

The one-half mile sidewalk and multi-use path on Refugee Road are scheduled to be completed by mid-October, weather permitting, and are part of \$4 million in capital improvement funds the City is investing in pedestrian safety projects, including 9.2 miles of sidewalks citywide. Other sidewalks to be built by the city in 2011 include:

- Cole Street, between Kelton Avenue and Berkeley Road (completed)
- Cole Street, between Seymour Avenue and Fairwood Avenue (completed)
- Deshler Avenue, between Fairwood Avenue and Lockbourne Road (currently under construction)
- South Hague Avenue, between West Mound Street and Briggs Road (currently under construction)
- Kenny Road, between Bricker Boulevard and Ackerman Road
- King Avenue, between city limits east of Andover Road and Westwood Avenue
- Lane Avenue, between Kenny Road and Fyffe Drive (currently under construction)
- Livingston Avenue, between Woodcrest and Lonsdale
- Mooberry Street, between Kelton Avenue and Berkeley Road (completed)

- Mt. Vernon Avenue, between 5th Street and 6th Street
- Nelson Road, between Greenway South and railroad overpass
- Northwest Boulevard, between West 5th Avenue and King Avenue
- Obetz Road, between South High Street and Beth Ann Drive (currently under construction)
- Obetz Road, between Beth Ann Drive and Parsons Avenue
- Valleyview Road, between Wilson Road and Westmoor Middle School
- East Weber Road, between I-71 and Cleveland Avenue
- West Mound Street, between Brinker Avenue and Binns Boulevard
- Wilson Road, between Fisher Road and Interchange Road
- Worthington Woods Boulevard, between Sancus Boulevard and Alta View Road

Columbus has constructed 67.58 miles of sidewalks since 2000.

The city considers several factors when identifying locations where sidewalks will be constructed, including:

- Is there a school on, or adjacent to, the street
- Is there a recreation center or park on, or adjacent to, the street?
- Are there COTA bus stops on the street?
- Is there a concentration of senior citizen housing on the street?
- Is the street an arterial street, which has larger traffic volumes than residential street?

Department of Public Service information is also available on the department's Facebook site at www.facebook.com/ColumbusPublicService.